

I'm an amateur radio operator living in a rural area. One of the major reasons I worked very hard to build a house and establish a residence under relatively difficult conditions was to get away from my previous electrically noisy urban environment. Even in the best of conditions when the power lines were in good shape, weak signal work was difficult to impossible.

In my opinion, and in my case, I believe that BPL would constitute simple expropriation of my hard-earned property. Note that personal property need not necessarily be something that can be seen, or touched, or manipulated. Such property can still be highly valuable! For me, that property is an RF environment (at my residence) almost completely free from man-made noise. It makes low-power work on the ham bands possible, and also reception of signals that would otherwise be masked by urban-level electrical noise.

From my reading on BPL, I am convinced that its use on power lines currently surrounding my residence would destroy my ability to receive weaker signals. In fact, it appears that it will negate my ability to receive all but the strongest signals.

This would effectively lower the value of my residence and negate my hobby. It therefore constitutes simple theft. (A "taking without just compensation")

For those who say amateur radio is "only a hobby" I must respond that for me (and many thousands of other Americans) it is a **consuming** hobby. That means that a significant amount of my time is spent using, building, or working on communications equipment. Some people golf; others race cars; still others do craft work. Allowing BPL will be the equivalent of confiscating all golf clubs, raising the price of high octane gasoline and methanol to \$1000 a gallon, or burning down all the Hobby Lobby stores. I'm being about half-facetious here. But BPL **will** destroy amateur radio on the high frequency (2-30MHz) bands.

There are other philosophical and technical reasons to kill off BPL which have been excellently addressed elsewhere. But the angle of "expropriation of valuable property" might be new to some. That's enough reason on its own for disallowing BPL.

--Mark Francis
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